
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROPOSAL TO LICENSE ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS

Recommendations of the Joint Sunset Review Committee (JLSRC)

ISSUE #1. (LICENSE ORTHOTISTS AND PROSTHETISTS?) Should the State administer a new licensing and regulatory program for orthotists and prosthetists?

Recommendation #1: *At this time, there appears to be insufficient justification to license orthotists and prosthetists. However, the Joint Committee recommends that the licensure of orthotists and prosthetists be considered in the Department of Consumer Affairs' Alternative Medicine Bureau study.*

Comments: Currently California law does not require licensing of orthotists or prosthetists. However, California Medi-Cal regulations require prosthetic and orthotic providers to have certification from either of the two national private certifying organizations – the American Board for Certification in Orthotics and Prosthetics (ABC) or the Board for Orthotist Certification (BOC). Some private health insurance companies also require providers of those services to their insureds to have either ABC or BOC certification.

Admittedly, the services provided by orthotists and prosthetists can have a significant impact on the lives of their patients. However, these services are generally being offered by certified, well-trained professionals, with the involvement of a licensed physician who writes the prescription and can make a knowledgeable selection of a competent orthotist or prosthetist. The lack of consumer complaints, coupled with the evidence low malpractice claims against orthotists and prosthetists, suggests a lack of significant consumer harm or dissatisfaction.